

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5997

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

S E C R E T USUN 0692

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SS

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S MEETING WITH SYG WALDHEIM,
FEBRUARY 24: SPANISH SAHARA

REF: STATE 042876

1. AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR BENNETT, BRIEFED SYG MID-DAY FEBRUARY 24 CONCERNING ATHERTON VISIT, AND ASKED FOR WHATEVER BACKGROUND INFORMATION MIGHT BE AVAILABLE, ALONG LINES REFTEL.

2. WALDHEIM REPLIED THAT HE HAD MET WITH SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER IN ZURICH MORNING FEB 23 (USUN 653). SPANISH CONFIRMED THAT THEY DEFINITELY ARE LEAVING SPANISH SAHARA FEB 28, AT WHICH TIME TRIPARTITE ADMINISTRATION WILL TERMINATE. SPANISH HAVE GIVEN WALDHEIM ADVANCE COPY OF A LETTER WHICH THEY WILL PRESENT TO HIM ON FEB 28. LETTER NOTES, INTER ALIA, THAT ARTICLE 3 OF MADRID AGREEMENT WAS NOT FULFILLED, I.E., APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS CONCERNING SELF-DETERMINATION WERE NOT HELD WITH JEMAA. ACCORDING TO WALDHEIM, SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER COMPLAINED THAT MOROCCO WAS NOT INTERESTED IN IMPLEMENTING THIS ARTICLE OR SELF-DETERMINATION IN GENERAL IN SAHARA. WALDHEIM DID OBSERVE

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THAT MOROCCO CLAIMED THAT SUCH "SELF-DETERMINATION"

HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED WHEN HEAD OF JEMAA TOOK OATH TO KING HASSAN. WALDHEIM THEN COMMENTED TO US THAT MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI HAD VISITED MADRID RECENTLY BUT TALKS THERE "WERE NOT TOO FRIENDLY". SPANIARDS HAD SUGGESTED THAT JEMAA MEET AND DECIDE SAHARAN FUTURE UNDER UN AUSPICES, BUT MOROCCAN REFUSED, AND TWO DAYS AGO KING HASSAN HAD SAID THAT THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THE SAHARA WAS "CLOSED".

3. JUST PRIOR TO AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S MEETING WITH WALDHEIM, MOROCCAN PERMREP SLAOUI HAD CALLED ON SYG. WALDHEIM SHOWED US TEXT OF MESSAGE SLAOUI PRESENTED TO HIM FROM FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI, WHICH ASKED THE UN TO SEND AN OBSERVER TO THE JEMAA MEETING FEB 26. THE LETTER INDICATED THAT THOSE JEMAA MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE SAHARA WERE WELCOME TO RETURN AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING; THEIR SAFE CONDUCT WOULD BE GUARANTEED. WALDHEIM TOLD US HE INFORMED SLAOUI THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE COMMITTEE OF 24, SINCE IT IS A DECOLONIZATION QUESTION. ACCORDING TO WALDHEIM, SLAOUI ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT THE RYDBECK APPOINTMENT, RYDBECK'S STATEMENTS RELATING TO MILITARY PRESENCE PREVENTING A REFERENDUM, AND REMARKS RELATED TO THE REPORTED DEPARTURE OF SAHARAN YOUTH (USUN 621). WALDHEIM SAID HE REMINDED SLAOUI THAT HE HAD NOT OBJECTED TO RYDBECK'S APPOINTMENT WHEN IT WAS FIRST DISCUSSED. WALDHEIM EXPECTS TO RECEIVE RYDBECK'S WRITTEN REPORT AFTERNOON FEB 24 AND THEN WILL DISCUSS IT WITH SALIM. SYG BELIEVES THAT COMMITTEE OF 24 WOULD OPPOSE SENDING AN OBSERVER SINCE RESULTS REALLY ARE PRE-ORDAINED. THE RUMP JEMAA WILL VOTE FOR ABSORPTION AND THOSE MEMBERS IN EXILE WILL NOT RETURN FOR FEAR OF BEING KILLED. RYDBECK PORTRAYED A SITUATION OF HEAVY MILITARY PRESENCE AND WIDESPREAD FEAR. IN WALDHEIM'S VIEW, RYDBECK'S APPRAISAL WAS THAT SITUATION IN SAHARA WAS "NOT GOOD".

4. RETURNING TO HIS MEETING WITH THE SPANISH, WALDHEIM SAID THAT MADRID HAD NOT BROUGHT UP THE POSSIBILITY OF UN TAKING OVER THE GOS' SHARE OF SAHARAN ADMINISTRATION. IF SPANISH HAD, WALDHEIM VOLUNTEERED, HE WOULD HAVE REJECTED PROPOSAL.

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5. WALDHEIM THEN SAID THAT ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THE QUESTION OF CONTACTS BY RYDBECK WITH F-POLISARIO. MOROCCANS PREDICTABLY OPPOSED THEM. THE SYG HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER RYDBECK SHOULD GO TO ALGERIA TO MEET WITH F-POLISARIO OFFICIALS THERE. WALDHEIM THEN SHOOK HIS HEAD, SAYING THAT DESPITE ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS, HE HAD LONG FELT THAT SITUATION IN SAHARA WAS A FAIT ACCOMPLI AND NOTHING COULD BE DONE.

SLAOUI HAD CONFIRMED IN THEIR MORNING MEETING THAT HE HAD JUST SPOKEN TO HIS KING, IN WHOSE VIEW SAHARA WAS MOROCCAN TERRITORY PURE AND SIMPLE.

6. WALDHEIM THEN SAID THAT THERE IS ANOTHER VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM ABOUT WHICH THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD APPRISED HIM; NAMELY, THAT EFFORTS ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN TO UNDERMINE MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH AND REPLACE HIM WITH A LONG TIME POLITICAL OPPONENT WHO IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO F-POLISARIO. WALDHEIM OBSERVED THAT MAURITANIA HAD NEVER SEEMED VERY HAPPY ABOUT SAHARAN SITUATION. HE ADDED THAT MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR SLAOUI HAD TOLD HIM THAT ALTHOUGH MOROCCO WISHES TO SEPARATE QUESTIONS OF SAHARA AND BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA, ALGERIANS WERE USING SAHARA TO AFFECT ADVERSELY SUCH BILATERAL AFFAIRS.

7. AMB MOYNIHAN OFFERED TO ADVISE SYG OF NEWS WE HAD FROM ATHERTON VISIT, STRESSING, HOWEVER, THAT THE TALKS WERE NOT INTENDED TO BE MEDIATORY AT ALL, AND REQUESTING THAT WALDHEIM KEEP OUT INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, BRIEFING MATERIAL, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN00692
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0771
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760212/aaaaakji.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 42876
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S MEETING WITH SYG WALDHEIM, FEBRUARY 24: SPANISH SAHARA
TAGS: PFOR, SS, MO, AG, US, UN, (WALDHEIM, KURT), (MOYNIHAN, DANIEL P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006